

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

To:

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PCT

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(PCT Rule 71.1) *M → MR*

Date of mailing (day/month/year)	03.03.2005
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Applicant's or agent's file reference WO 21.1039	IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION	
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International application No. PCT/EP2004/004918	International filing date (day/month/year) 22.03.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 03.04.2003
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Applicant SERVICES PETROLIERS SCHLUMBERGER ET AL.

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary report on patentability and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.

4. REMINDER

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)) (see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/B/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary report on patentability. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

The applicant's attention is drawn to Article 33(5), which provides that the criteria of novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability described in Article 33(2) to (4) merely serve the purposes of international preliminary examination and that "any Contracting State may apply additional or different criteria for the purposes of deciding whether, in that State, the claimed inventions is patentable or not" (see also Article 27(5)). Such additional criteria may relate, for example, to exemptions from patentability, requirements for enabling disclosure, clarity and support for the claims.

Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016	Authorized Officer Pozzi, C Tel. +31 70 340-3260
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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference WO 21.1039	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/EP2004/004918	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 22.03.2004	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 03.04.2003	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G01N29/10, G01V1/50			
<p>Applicant SERVICES PETROLIERS SCHLUMBERGER ET AL.</p>			
<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input type="checkbox"/> <i>(sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of</i> <i>sheets, as follows:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions). <input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box. b. <input type="checkbox"/> <i>(sent to the International Bureau only) a total of</i> (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) <i>, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</i> 			
<p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the opinion <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application 			
Date of submission of the demand 22.10.2004	Date of completion of this report 03.03.2005		
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016	Authorized Officer Kouzelis, D Telephone No. +31 70 340-2954		



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT
ON PATENTABILITY**

International application No.
PCT/EP2004/004918

JC20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 28 SEP 2005

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
 - international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 - publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
 - international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the **elements*** of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):
 - 1-11 as originally filed

Description, Pages

1-11 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-4 as originally filed

Drawings, Sheets

1/5-5/5 as originally filed

a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing

3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
 - the description, pages
 - the claims, Nos.
 - the drawings, sheets/figs
 - the sequence listing (*specify*):
 - any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):
4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
 - the description, pages
 - the claims, Nos.
 - the drawings, sheets/figs
 - the sequence listing (*specify*):
 - any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):

* If item 4 applies, some or all of these sheets may be marked "superseded."

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT
ON PATENTABILITY**

International application No.
PCT/EP2004/004918

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	1-4
	No:	Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	1-4
	No:	Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-4
	No:	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7):

see separate sheet

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Re Item V**Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

Reference is made to the following document:

D1: US-A-6 041 861 (STANDLEY THOMAS ET AL) 28 March 2000 (2000-03-28)

1. The document D1 is regarded as being the closest prior art to the subject-matter of claim 1 and shows a method for determining components of a tube casing by measuring attenuation of acoustic waves by inverting a system of equations.
- 2.1 The subject-matter of claim 1 differs from this known D1 in that it calculates the unknown value φ_D that is the percentage of the cement de-bonded by inverting a system of three equations and three unknowns, after having first measured attenuation of acoustic waves in a free pipe, in a fully cemented pipe and in fully de-bonded pipe.
- 2.2 In contrast, D1 uses a ten step method that includes the determination of peak amplitudes and a FFT of the above amplitudes that leads to the inversion of nine equations (see Figures 6A and 6B, Col 8, lines 34-35).
- 2.3 The subject-matter of claim 1 is therefore new (Article 33(2) PCT).
- 3.1 The problem to be solved by the present invention may be regarded as how to determine n_D that is the percentage of the cement de-bonded from the tube casing, by measuring attenuation of acoustic waves in a pipe under real conditions.
- 3.2 The solution to this problem proposed in claim 1 of the present application is considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) as it first measures attenuation of acoustic waves under three different (but known) conditions (free-pipe, fully bonded pipe and fully de-bonded pipe) then measure attenuation of the waves under real (unknown) conditions and then inverts a system of three

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(SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.

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equations in which the three unknowns are the three percentages n_c , n_w , n_d .

4. Independent claims 2 and 3 are also based on the central distinctive feature of claim 1, that is the inversion of the three equations system for determining the unknown n_d , but applies to measurement of a coupling amplitude, respectively the combination of attenuation and coupling amplitude. For the same reasons given above they also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.
5. The same consideration applies for the dependent claim 4.
6. The method finds industrial applicability in the field of tube casings in boreholes.